

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

Claims 1-11, 16-20, and new claims 21-24 remain pending in the application. The independent claims are 1, 16, 21, and 23 with claim 3 being a multiple dependent claim.

Claims 12-15 comprising two independent claims and two dependent claims have been canceled and new claims 21-24 have been added to take their place.

No new matter is added by the proposed claim amendments.

1. (previously presented) A first aid strip comprising:

a substrate layer comprising a first adhesive substrate surface opposed by a second substrate surface;

a gauze layer comprising a first gauze surface opposed by a second non-adherent gauze surface;

wherein said first gauze surface is associated with said first adhesive substrate surface;

a gauze spacer comprising a first spacer surface opposed by a second non-adherent spacer surface, wherein said first and second surfaces form a parameter around a inter window thereby defining a spacer void; and

wherein said first spacer surface is associated with said second non-adherent gauze surface so that said spacer void defines at least part of a pocket.

2. (previously presented) A first aid strip as in claim 1, further comprising a plurality of gauze spacers stacked on top of one another so that the spacer voids are in substantial alignment with each other thereby forming a spacer stack defining a spacer stack void wherein one end of said spacer stack is associated with said second non-adherent_spacer surface so that

said spacer stack void is in substantial alignment with said pocket thereby defining a deeper pocket and with the opposite end of said spacer stack defining a non-adherent spacer stack surface.

3. (previously presented) A first aid strip as in claim 1 or 2, wherein said pocket has a depth of about 1.5 mm to about 2.0 mm.

4. (previously presented) A first aid strip as in claim 1, further comprising a ring disposed and sealed between said first gauze surface and said first adhesive substrate surface.

5. (previously presented) A first aid strip as in claim 4, wherein said ring is composed of an inert material.

6. (previously presented) A first aid strip as in claim 5, wherein said ring is made of at least one material from the group of materials consisting of: cork; latex; and rubber.

7. (previously presented) A first aid strip as in claim 4, wherein the ring is about 2.0 to 2.5 mm wide and about 2.0 to 2.5 mm deep.

8. (previously presented) A first aid strip as in claim 1, wherein the length of said gauze layer is about one-third the length of said substrate layer.

9. (previously presented) The first aid strip as in claim 8, wherein the width of said gauze layer is substantially the same width as the substrate layer.

10. (previously presented) The first aid strip as in claim 9, wherein at least one of said substrate layer and said gauze lawyer further define a bulge in substantial alignment with said spacer void.

11. (previously presented) The first aid strip as in claim 10, wherein said bulge is about 2.0 mm to 2.5 mm deep.

12. (Canceled) ~~A method of manufacture of a first aid strip, comprising the steps of:~~

~~(a) — providing a gauze base pad comprising a first base pad surface and an opposing second base pad surface;~~

~~(b) — providing a plurality of gauze layers;~~

~~(c) — removing at least part of the middle of each of said plurality of gauze layers to form a plurality of gauze spacers so that each spacer defines an spacer void in the approximate center of each respective spacer;~~

~~(d) — associating at least one surface of each of said plurality of gauze spacers to the surface of another gauze spacer to form a gauze spacer stack wherein the spacer voids are in substantial alignment thereby defining a spacer stack void;~~

~~(e) associating one surface of said spacer stack with said second base pad surface;~~
~~and~~

~~(f) providing a substrate comprising a first adhesive surface opposed by a second surface wherein the first adhesive surface is associated with said first base pad surface.~~

13. (canceled) ~~A method for the manufacture of first aid strip, comprising the steps of:~~

~~(a) — providing a gauze pad comprising a first gauze pad surface and an opposing second gauze pad surface;~~

~~(b) — providing a gauze ring having a first ring surface and an opposing second ring surface wherein said ring defines a void in the approximate center of said ring;~~

~~————— (c) — associating said first ring surface to said first gauze pad surface thereby defining a gauze pad pocket;~~

~~(d) — providing a substrate comprising a first substrate surface and a second adhesive substrate surface; and~~

~~(e) — associating said second adhesive substrate surface with one of (i) said second gauze pad surface and (ii) said second ring surface.~~

14. (canceled) A method of manufacture of a first aid strip in claim 13, wherein the outer border of the gauze ring is flush with the margins of gauze pad and wherein the gauze ring defines a rectangle.

15. (canceled) A method of manufacture of a first aid strip as in claim 13, wherein the outer border of said gauze ring defines a distance that is about the same as the distance defined by the outer edge of said gauze pad.

16. (previously presented) A bandage for covering a wound, said bandage comprising:
a substrate comprising a first adhesive substrate surface and an opposing second substrate surface;

a spacer comprising a first spacer surface and a second spacer surface wherein said spacer surfaces form a spacer border surrounding a spacer void in the approximate center of said spacer and wherein said first spacer surface is associated with said first adhesive substrate surface; and

a pad comprising a first pad surface and a second pad surface wherein said first pad surface is associated with said second space surface and said first adhesive substrate surface thereby sealing said spacer between said substrate and said pad.

17. (previously presented) A bandage for covering a wound as in claim 16, wherein said substrate, said pad, and said spacer each define a rectangle and wherein:

(a) the length of said substrate is about three times the length of said pad,

- (b) the width of said substrate is wider than the width of said pad,
- (c) the length of said spacer is about the same as the length of said pad, and
- (d) the width of said spacer is about the same as the width of said pad.

18. (previously presented) A bandage for covering a wound as in claim 16, wherein said substrate, said pad, and said spacer each define a rectangle and wherein:

- (a) the length of said substrate is about three times the length of said pad ;
- (b) the length of said spacer is about the same length as said pad;
- (c) the width of said spacer is about the same as the width of said substrate; and

wherein the width of said pad is one of (i) substantially equal to the width of said substrate, and (ii) wider than the width of said substrate.

19. (previously presented) A bandage for covering a wound as in claim 16, wherein said spacer is composed of inert material.

20. (previously presented) A bandage for covering a wound as in claim 16, wherein said spacer void defines a pouch that is about 2.0 mm to about 2.5 mm wide and about 2.0mm to about 2.5 mm deep.

21. (New) A bandage for covering a wound, said bandage comprising:

a substrate comprising a first adhesive substrate surface and an opposing second substrate surface, wherein said first adhesive substrate surface defines a substrate-geometric-figure;

a pad comprising a first pad surface and a second pad surface, wherein the distance between said first pad surface and said second pad surface define a pad-thickness, and wherein said first pad surface defines a pad-geometric-figure that is smaller than the substrate-

geometric-figure, and wherein said first pad surface is associated with said first adhesive substrate surface so as to define a substrate-surface-border-region around said pad;

a ring having a first ring surface and a second ring surface, wherein the distance between said first ring surface and said second ring surface defines a ring depth, and wherein said first ring surface defines a ring-geometric-figure that is smaller than the substrate-geometric-figure but larger than the pad-geometric-figure; and

wherein said first ring surface is associated with said substrate-surface-border-region so that said ring surrounds said pad.

22. (New) A bandage for covering a wound as in claim 21, wherein said substrate-geometric-figure is a rectangle and said ring depth is between about 2.00 mm and 2.50mm.

23. (New) A bandage for covering a wound, said bandage comprising:

a substrate comprising a first adhesive substrate surface and an opposing second substrate surface, wherein said first adhesive substrate surface defines a substrate-geometric-figure and wherein said first adhesive substrate surface and said opposing second substrate surface further define a substrate-pocket extending a predefined distance away from said first adhesive substrate surface;

a pad comprising a first pad surface and a second pad surface, wherein the distance between said first pad surface and said second pad surface define a pad-thickness, and wherein said first pad surface defines a pad-geometric-figure that is smaller than the substrate-geometric-figure, and wherein said first pad surface and said second pad surface further define a pad-pocket extending a predefined distance away from said first pad surface;

and wherein said first pad surface is associated with said first adhesive substrate surface so that said pad-pocket is in alignment with said substrate-pocket and so as to define a substrate-surface-border-region around said pad;

a ring having a first ring surface and a second ring surface, wherein the distance between said first ring surface and said second ring surface define a ring depth, and wherein said first ring surface defines a ring-geometric-figure that is smaller than the substrate-geometric-figure but larger than the pad-geometric-figure; and

wherein said first ring surface is associated with said substrate-surface-border-region so that said ring surrounds said pad.

24. (previously presented) A bandage for covering a wound as in claim 23, wherein said substrate-geometric-figure is a rectangle and said ring depth is between about 2.00 mm and 2.50mm..